

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A plug retaining assembly comprising:

a plug including a lug;

a socket to interface with the plug; and

a retaining clip including a lug engaging mechanism structured to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force applied to the plug while the retaining clip is engaged with the plug, the retaining clip being movably positioned with respect to the socket for movement between (1) a non-plug-retaining position, and (2) a plug-retaining position wherein a sloping surface of the lug engaging mechanism engages the lug, the sloping surface having an angle that is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force, wherein the retaining clip is movable between the non-plug-retaining position and the plug-retaining position while the plug is engaged with the socket.

2. (Original) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug is configured to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and wherein the plug retaining assembly is reconfigurable so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and remain connected to the socket until again subjected to the release force.

3. (Original) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein, in use, the plug is disconnectable from the socket by application of a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of setting a release force of a plug retaining assembly, the method comprising:

providing the plug retaining assembly with a plug, a socket to interface with the plug, and a retaining clip, wherein the plug includes a lug and the retaining clip includes a lug engaging mechanism having a wedge angle adapted to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force while the retaining clip is engaged with the plug;

selecting the wedge angle in accordance with the predetermined release force;

engaging the plug with the socket; and

moving the lug engaging mechanism with respect to the engaged plug and socket to position the wedge angle with respect to the lug.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to allow the plug to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and to include the ability to reconfigure the plug retaining assembly so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and remain connected to the socket until again subjected to the release force.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to include the ability for a user to disconnect the plug from the socket by application of

a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of setting a release force of a plug retaining assembly, the method comprising:

providing the retaining assembly with a plug, a socket to interface with the plug, and a retaining clip, wherein the plug includes a lug and the retaining clip includes a lug engaging mechanism having a wedge angle adapted to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force while the retaining clip is engaged with the plug;

selecting a resilience of the retaining clip in accordance with the predetermined release force;

engaging the plug with the socket; and

moving the lug engaging mechanism with respect to the engaged plug and socket to position the wedge angle with respect to the lug.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to allow the plug to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and to include the ability to reconfigure the plug retaining assembly so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and retain connected to the socket until again subjected to the release force.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to include the ability for a user to disconnect the plug from the socket by application of

a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

10. (Currently Amended) A plug retaining assembly, comprising:

a plug having a first end and a second end opposite the first end, the second end including a lug;

a socket having a receptacle to receive the first end of the plug, the second end of the plug including the lug being exposed when the plug is engaged with the socket; and

a retainer having a first end and a second end, the first end being pivotably mounted on the socket, and the second end being engaged with the lug such that the lug is positioned between the retainer and the socket,

wherein the second end of the retainer includes a lug engaging mechanism structured to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force applied to the plug while the retainer is engaged with the plug.

11. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 10, wherein the retainer includes a pair of pins that insertable within respective bores provided in lugs of the socket to enable pivotal movement of the retainer about the pins.

12. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 11, wherein at least one of the bores includes a notch and at least one of the pins includes a protrusion, the protrusion adapted to engage within the notch when the retainer reaches a plug retaining position.

13. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug includes at least one pin receiving slot that is adapted to receive respective pins provided on the socket.

14. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug includes a pair of lugs.

15. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 14, wherein the retaining clip includes a pair of tabs positioned at respective ends of a pair of arms, the tabs adapted to engage with respective lugs of the plug to maintain the retaining clip in the plug retaining position.

16. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 15, wherein the resilience of the arms is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

17. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 15, wherein the friction between the lugs and the tabs is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip includes a groove adapted to receive an upper portion of the plug when the retaining clip is in the plug retaining position.

20. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.

21. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, further comprising a second plug, a second socket, and a second retaining clip, wherein the retaining clip and second retaining clip are rotatable in opposite directions.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein selecting the resilience of the retaining clip includes selecting a resilience of arms of the retaining clip.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.

25. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip includes a pair of arms and a bridge piece that interconnects the pair of arms, the bridge piece providing the sloping surface.

26. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 25, wherein a resilience of the pair of arms is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the moving comprises pivotally moving the retaining clip from a non-plug-retaining position to a plug-retaining position to position the wedge angle with respect to the lug.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the moving comprises pivotally moving the retaining clip from a non-plug-retaining position to a plug-retaining position to position the wedge angle with respect to the lug.

29. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 10, wherein the first end of the retainer is rotatable about an axis adapted to intersect a longitudinal axis of the plug in use.

30. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the sloping surface has a substantially planar configuration.

31. (Previously Presented) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the sloping surface is adapted to disengage from the lug at the predetermined release force.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the lug engaging mechanism includes a substantially planar surface oriented at the wedge angle so as to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at the predetermined release force.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the wedge angle is adapted to allow disengagement of the lug engaging mechanism from the lug at the predetermined release force.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the lug engaging mechanism includes a substantially planar surface oriented at the wedge angle so as to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at the predetermined release force.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the wedge angle is adapted to allow disengagement of the lug engaging mechanism from the lug at the predetermined release force.